

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 00559 311238Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W
-----100112 311245Z /43

P 311155Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3391

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0559

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MASS, MORG, PGOV
SUBJECT: US-LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY RELATIONS: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

REF STATE 306726

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS REFTEL:

A. IMPORTANCE OF USG TIES WITH HOST COUNTRY MILITARY. ALTHOUGH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAS A CIVILIAN-DOMINATED, DULY ELECTED GOVERNMENT, THE MILITARY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ALL ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT, POLITICS AND BUSINESS, AND CONTINUOUS USG CONTACTS WITH THEM ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE FURTHERING OF US INTERESTS. ASIDE FROM BASIC SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, SUCH CONTACTS SERVE TO FURTHER RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE, AND AID IN THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF US CITIZENS. RIVALRY AMONG DOMINICAN MILITARY FACTIONS, ALTHOUGH SKILLFULLY MANAGED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER, IS A CONTINUING LATENT THREAT TO THE PRESERVATION OF ORDER, STABILITY AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND REQUIRES CAREFUL MONITORING BY THE USG. (THE DATT DISAGREES WITH THIS SENTENCE. HE BELIEVES THAT THE CURRENT MILITARY RIVALRY IS PERSONALIST AND NOT LIKELY TO CAUSE SIGNIFICANT POLARIZATION IN THE ARMED FORCES. HE NOTES THAT A CHANGE OF PRESIDENTS COULD LEAD TO A MORE DOMINANT MILITARY ROLE IN GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 00559 311238Z

B. STATE OF USG/US MILITARY SERVICE RELATIONS.
THE EMBASSY MAINTAINS CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE DOMINICAN MILITARY PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE DATT AND THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE (MAAG), BUT ALSO THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACTS OF NUMEROUS MISSION PERSONNEL. THE DOMINICAN MILITARY, WHICH IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, IDENTIFIES WITH THE US AS A HEMISPHERIC AND WORLD LEADER AND VALUES HIGHLY US TIES. CONSCIOUS OF PAST US INTERVENTIONS

IN THIS COUNTRY, THE MILITARY PERCEIVE THE US AS A GUARANTOR OF ITS SECURITY. ALTHOUGH THE US NOW PROVIDES ONLY LIMITED SECURITY ASSISTANCE, A CONTINUED US MILITARY PROGRAM IN THE DR HAS CONSIDERABLE SYMBOLIC VALUE IN ADDITION TO EXPOSING THE DOMINICAN MILITARY TO US DOCTRINE AND CONCEPTS AND HELPS PRESERVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH, AND A PRO-US OUTLOOK WITHIN, THE HOST GOVERNMENT. ADDITIONALLY, SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL PROVIDE WIDER ACCESS TO MORE ECHELONS OF THE DOMINICAN MILITARY IN DAY-TO-DAY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND THUS GIVES THE US BETTER INSIGHT INTO THEIR THINKING.

C. NEAR AND MID-TERM ACTIONS.

NO BASIC CHANGES IN CURRENT ONGOING ACTIVITIES ARE REQUIRED IN THE NEAR OR MID-TERM TO MEET MUTUAL DOMINICAN AND US NEEDS. GIVEN UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN MAY, A LOW US MILITARY PROFILE ALONG WITH CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL CONTACTS AND THE CURRENT MODEST LEVEL OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE REMAIN THE BEST US POLICY.

D. EFFECT OF REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF US ARMS TRANSFERS.

THE HOST COUNTRY MILITARY IS NOT INTERESTED IN ACQUISITION OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEMS, BUT HAS A DEFINITE NEED TO: (1) UPGRADE ITS MOBILITY, (2) STANDARDIZE ITS SMALL ARMS INVENTORY, AND (3) UPDATE ITS AIR FORCE FIGHTER-TRAINER AIRCRAFT AND COAST GUARD-TYPE NAVY. THEY LOOK TO THE US AS THE PREFERRED SOURCE FOR THESE ACQUISITIONS. WHILE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DOMINICAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTO 00559 311238Z

MILITARY REMAIN CORDIAL, THEY ARE ERODED BY US WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWAL OF ASSETS WHICH THE DOMINICANS FEELS ARE BEING EXTENDED TO OTHER COUNTRIES (RECENT EXAMPLES: T34B AIRCRAFT AND M-14 RIFLES) AND STATED INTENTIONS TO TERMINATE LEASES ON NEEDED SMALL CRAFT IN USE BY THE DOMINICAN NAVY. THE SUCCESSIVE DEDUCTIONS IN US SECURITY ASSISTANCE ADD TO A FEELING THAT THE US IS BECOMING LESS CONCERNED WITH DOMINICAN SECURITY AND DECREASE OUR LEVERAGE AND INFLUENCE OVER SOME ASPECTS OF OPERATIONAL DECISION-MAKING, PRINCIPALLY IN THE AREA OF THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES.

E. ROLE OF PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

IN MISSION'S VIEW, MILITARY PERSONNEL EXCHANGE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE IN FURTHERING US INTERESTS HERE. THEY SERVE TO IMPART A PRO-US OUTLOOK AND UNDERSTANDING OF US MILITARY DOCTRINE AND US VALUES, EVEN WHILE THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY CHANGE THE FUNDAMENTAL OUTLOOK OF DOMINICAN MILITARY. THIS ASSUMES THAT THE TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE AT LEAST AT THE LEVEL OF RECENT YEARS. THE INROADS OF "FENCING" HAVE REDUCED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CURRENT IMET FOR THE DR TO THE POINT OF SERIOUSLY ERODING ITS VALUE.

F. NEAR AND MID-TERM TRENDS IN THIRD COUNTRY ARMS PURCHASES.

THE DOMINICANS ARE NOT LARGE PURCHASERS OF ARMS FROM ANY SOURCE

AND PREFER US SOURCE PURCHASES FOR THE MOST PART. HOWEVER, WITH
LESS OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSESSIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS FROM THE US,
THE DOMINICANS HAVE BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN SHOPPING ABOUT ELSE-
WHERE FOR SOME OF THEIR MILITARY NEEDS. (THEY RECENTLY CONCLUDED
A PURCHASE OF SPANISH TRUCKS AND JEEPS, VALUED AT SEVERAL MILLION
DOLLARS.)
HURWITCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTO000559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-1237
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978013/aaaaacdb.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4deaa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 306726
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3724887
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY RELATIONS: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TAGS: MPOL, MASS, MORG, PGOV, XM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4deaa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014